

Appl. No. 10/659,602
Amdt. Dated Sep. 17, 2004
Reply to Office Action of July 14, 2004

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully appreciates the allowance of claims 10-15.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 102(b)

Claims 1, 3 and 4, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Bakermans et al. (US Patent 4,461,522).

Claim 1 defines an electrical connector comprising an insulative housing. The insulative housing comprises a base having a pair of side walls. Each side wall defines an outer face exposed to an exterior in a transverse direction. A slot is formed between the pair of side walls of the electrical connector and extends along a longitudinal direction. A plurality of passageways and recesses are both defined in the side walls. **Each recess extends from a corresponding passageway outwardly toward and terminating at the outer face of the side wall.** A plurality of electrical contacts is received in the passageways of the insulative housing.

Referring to FIG. 1 of Bakermans et al, Bakermans et al disclose an electrical connector assembly comprising a housing 12. The housing comprises a plurality of contact barriers 18 which include vertical ones and horizontal ones. Between vertical barriers 18, there are passageways for receiving contact tips 14B. Between horizontal barriers 18, there are recesses for receiving another part of the contacts 14. A cam recess 21 for receiving cam 24 is defined in the housing between the vertical barriers and the side wall. It is clear that the **recesses between the horizontal barriers 18 DO NOT extend from corresponding passageways**

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between the vertical barriers 18. In fact, said recesses are communicating with the cam recess 21 while not the passageways.

However as clearly defined in Claim 1 of the present invention, each recess do extend from a corresponding passageway outwardly toward and terminating at the outer face of the side wall. Obviously, the structure of the recess of Bakermans et al is substantially different from that of the recess of the present invention. Thus, independent Claim 1 is believed to be patentable over Bakermans et al.

Dependent claims 3-9 are also believed to be patentable since they depend, either directly or indirectly, from independent claim 1.

In view of the above claim amendments and remarks, the subject application is believed to be in a condition for allowance and an action to such effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
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